

63. ~~The method of claim 61 wherein the certain period for a remote interface corresponds to a time between sending a credit to the remote interface and receiving another signal indicating that the remote device has completed a set of transmissions.~~

64. The method of claim 61 wherein the certain period of each remote interface is different from the certain period of the other remote interfaces

65. The method of claim 61 wherein the certain period of a remote interface is mutually exclusive of the certain period of the other remote interfaces.--

REMARKS

Claims 21 and 26-65 will be pending in this application after the Examiner enters the forgoing amendment.

The specification corresponds to the originally filed specification and amendments in allowed Parent Application Serial No. 08/703,767

Support for "a respective signal that determines an amount that the remote interface may send during a certain period" (claims 26, 31, 36, 41, 46, 51, 56, and 61) may be found, for example, in the credit that governs an amount of data an RLA may send during the period the

RLA possesses the credit. Support for the "different" certain period (claims 29, 34, 39, 44, 49, 54, 59, and 64) and for the "mutually exclusive" certain period (claims 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, and 65) is that a single RLA per channel possesses the credit at a time. Support for a system that "generates the respective signal for each activation of the sender" (claims 27, 32, 37, and 42) and for the act of generating "performed for each performance of the sending step" (claims 47, 52, 57, and 62) is that after an RLA exhausts a credit, sending of an additional credit is a prerequisite to the RLA sending more data. See, for example, page 6, lines 10-12:

[A]n upstream channel is shared by a plurality of RLAs in accordance with a credit criterion, and credit control packets are dispatched to a RLA which permit the RLA to send data packets to arbitrary hosts.

and page 32 line 10-page 33, line 12:

A credit permits a remote link adapter to send a certain number of packets. . . If a remote link adapter does not have a data packet to send, it returns the credit. . .

Figure 18 is a flow diagram of information exchanges between Hybridware™ server and client, according to conditions in which the client has information to transmit and the server gradually allocates bandwidth to the client. In particular, a node first provides a single credit at a selected frequency F. Then a packet is sent, consuming the credit, followed by a completion message. . . Next, a credit is provided corresponding to two packets at the selected frequency F, which is followed by two packet transmissions and a completion message. . . In response, another double credit is sent. . .

Although the "certain period" corresponds to the interval an RLA possesses the credit, of course, the claims are not so limited. For example, the "certain period" may correspond to a cycle in a slotted time domain multiplexing (TDM) system, in which each remote interface has knowledge of the respective slot(s) in which the interface may send during a cycle. In that case,

the number of slots per cycle governs the amount of data the interface may send during a certain TDM cycle. In that case, the certain period of each interface is the same. In that case, the act of sending may be performed multiple times per performance of the generating step, since each interface may retain knowledge of its assigned slots through many TDM cycles.

Support for a "remote device" running a "layered communication protocol" (claims 31, 41, 51, and 61) may be found in the data terminal equipment or computer described on page 12, lines 19-23: "U.S. Pat. No. 5,347,304 (1994) assigned to Hybrid Networks, Inc., and describing an example of an RLA [remote link adapter] is hereby expressly referenced and incorporated herein in its entirety. An RLA may receive analog broadcast signals including encoded digital information which the RLA decodes and provides to a data terminal or computer." U.S. Pat. No. 5,347,304, col. 3, lines 17-18, discloses, "the RLA presents the resulting digital signal to the data terminal equipment (DTE) interface" and col. 6, lines 57-60, disclose, "[e]rror recovery is achieved by the end-to-end transport layer protocol running in the data terminal equipment (DTE). A good example here is TCP/IP."


Support for "transparent to the associated remote device" (claims 31, 41, 51, and 61) may be found on page 22, lines 6-7: ". . . channel reassignments are done transparently to the user and the applications," and on U.S. Pat. No. 5,347,304, col. 5, lines 46-56: ". . . a link layer connection is established between the central site [data communications equipment] and the remote RLA. This connection remains transparent to the applications running above. The hybrid connection looks like a transparent remote Ethernet bridge and, therefore, is compatible with all

upper layer protocols (e.g., TCP/IP, AppleTalk, ISO, DECNET, etc.) that can run over Ethernet. Once the connection is established, the remote user can now run standard network applications just as if the user were located at the central site local area network."

Applicants submit that the forgoing amendment places the application in better condition for examination. Applicants respectfully request that the forgoing amendment be entered before the examination of this application.

If there are any other fees due, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0115.

Respectfully submitted,

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